United Nations S/2018/327

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 9 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 6 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime (S/2018/199), I should like to state the following:

Qatar reiterates that it categorically rejects the false accusations that are levelled against it repeatedly in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime. Those accusations are being made at a time when the Syrian regime continues to prosecute its savage military campaign against civilians in eastern Ghutah, use prohibited weapons and carry out indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians. According to the reports of international rights organizations and the United Nations, thousands of children, women and vulnerable persons have been killed in those attacks.

It is an outrage that this regime, which has violated all human values and conventions, continues to believe that it can fool the international community and divert attention from the mass atrocities that it has committed against civilians by addressing letters to the Security Council in which it repeatedly makes false, time-worn allegations against States that respect the rule of law and strive assiduously to fulfil their humanitarian responsibilities, in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions. The regime's efforts will not deter the international community from supporting the Syrian people, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The letter from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime is a desperate attempt to cover up the regime's blatant violation of Security Council resolution 2401 (2018). The Syrian regime continues to target defenceless civilians, citing what any reasonable person can see are spurious pretexts. Moreover, it has no regard for the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and rights organizations, and has rejected the international community's demands that it must stop massacring defenceless Syrian civilians. Such conduct, which has occurred time and again, reaffirms that this regime has exceeded all bounds, pays no heed to the dire consequences of its actions, has forgotten that there is no statute of limitations for crimes under international law and is unaware that the day when it will be held to account for its crimes against the Syrian people is now closer than ever now that the international community has decided to establish, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/248, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

18-06144 (E) 190418 190418

Please recycle

The Syrian regime's record is replete with horrific atrocities, and the transgressions that it has committed are without precedent. Qatar will therefore never tolerate the iniquity of having accusations levelled against it by a regime that is disconnected from the people and isolated at the regional and international levels. Its statements and claims no longer have any credibility. The above-mentioned letter, which is filled with lies about States that cooperate with the United Nations to provide aid to civilians in Syria, will not diminish the regional and international standing of Qatar or detract from its efforts to promote international cooperation in response to shared challenges. Moreover, Qatar will not deviate from its well-known policy of respecting international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and United Nations resolutions.

In keeping with the policy of Qatar and its well-known effectiveness in countering terrorism, and given that Qatar is an active partner of the international community in the fight to eradicate this danger, which threatens all States and societies, Qatar reaffirms its commitment to doing everything it can to counter terrorism and support regional and international efforts to establish regional and international stability and security. Qatar would like to reiterate that it strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever and wherever committed and regardless of the motivation, because terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

In line with its commitment to internationally binding resolutions, its well-known policies regarding the Syrian crisis and its belief that there must be a political solution to that crisis, Qatar reiterates its support for a political solution that is based on the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012. It will continue to work with the United Nations and the international community to bring about a political solution that preserves the territorial integrity of Syria and guarantees the legitimate rights of the Syrian people, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and human rights law.

Qatar once again calls upon the Security Council to take all measures required to protect civilians from the crimes that are being committed against them by the Syrian regime. In addition, the Council must take the steps needed to hold accountable those who are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity that have been committed in Syria, and ensure that the perpetrators do not go unpunished and are brought to international justice.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative